

A woman with short, blonde, wavy hair and heavy, dark eye makeup with long, dark eyelashes. She has a wide-eyed, surprised expression on her face, with her mouth slightly open. She is wearing a purple turtleneck top and a necklace with a large, white, star-shaped pendant. Her hands are raised near her face, with fingers spread. The background is a warm, reddish-brown color with a textured, slightly mottled appearance.

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Your Magazine of Choice

April 2003, Vol. 10 Number 7

They
Just
Don't
Care

Pg's 16 & 17

Fun

Pg's 5, 15, 34

Identity

Pg's 4, 18, 33

Health

Pg's 7, 14, 28



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The Court Reporter

Their Majesties Bobby and Endora have just returned from Vancouver, where they represented our city in true Edmonton style. It was the step-down of our own Empress 16, now Empress 31 of Vancouver, Mandy Kamp, and Bobby and Endora were accompanied by past Entertainer of the Year Kristy Krunt, Double Decade Empress Mrs. K, current Entertainer of the Year Jacklyn Hyde, as well as a bevy of other beauties. It is through representation like this that we ensure a good turnout from Vancouver for our own Coronation Festival in August.

March also saw the Entertainer of the Year Pageant, with finalist shows at the Roost and Buddys. Six contestants ran for the title: Donatella, Elize, Endora, Godiva, Pepper, and Weena Luv. Since the pageant itself was at Boots just this past Saturday, I can't at this time tell you who won, but with contestants like that, I can guarantee it was great show! Thanks to Ladonna for all your hard work!

We also represented the ISCWR at the Outreach Green with Envy Unity Benefit at Woodys this month.



Emperor 24 Garry and I had a great time, saw some fine new talent perform, and answered many questions about what the Court is all about. Congratulations to Outreach on a successful event!

April sees us go to Calgary for their Coronation. Edmonton and Calgary, as sister cities, have a long history of sibling rivalry, and that takes its clearest form at Coronations. The two courts are always trying to outdo each other with the fabulousness of their entrances and have, in the past couple years, even gone so far as to bring their own sets! This year will be no different, I am sure.

June sees Gay Pride, with our own Gay Edmonton pageant. As Onya Nies and Barion Deep finish their year, we hope to see contestants from all the bars competing at this Gay Pride event. Invitation packages are going out to those businesses soon, but if you're reading this and would like to run, feel free to approach a club or business on your own (or hey, just run as yourself!).

O n e
important
date to
remember:
July 1 is the
d a y
applications
f o r
Emperor
a n d
Empress
come out;

if you'd like to run, be sure to pick one up. Also, the application forms for the John M. Kerr Memorial Scholarship will be out in June. Fundraisers such as the quilt raffles, flower bulb sales, and the Hey Drag Queen Pageant have all been for this scholarship fund. Last year, five \$500 scholarships were given out, so be sure to apply if you're interested.

Until next time,
On behalf of Emperor and Empress
XXVII
Emperor XXVI
Rob Bigonion WPC



Dear Dr. Dyke,

I'm finding out that my partner has had quite the sexual history. I'm no angel, but this isn't sitting right with me. She gave me such a hard time about my sexual history—why do I feel threatened now?

Signed, Liquid Tide Free

Dear LTF,

Well, we don't have to be perfect—this isn't Heaven. (Sorry, Dr. Dyke just watched *Gia* again.)

The fact that you are calling her your partner implies that you've been together for longer than that three-month marker. What is probably putting up the red flag, is that

you are just finding out about things you should have known BEFORE you found out whether or not she was a shaver. That she ragged on you about YOUR past, is also a pretty good indicator that she doesn't feel very proud of her List O' Lovers, which is a whole other flag. The good thing about sleeping with an experienced woman, is that she has all the bells and whistles, and knows how to use them. If she brings up her exes and it's making you jealous, maybe that's the point, which equals another flag. You don't want to start over and turn to high school grad parties, so through gentle confrontation—which doesn't involve throwing her stuff out the window—let her know how you are feeling, and clear the air. If you end up gathering more flags, do

what Dr. Dyke does, and head for Disneyland!

Dear Dr. Dyke,

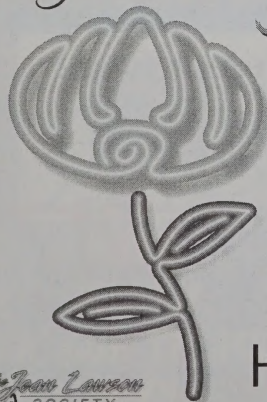
I love my new gf more than anything, but she wants to have an open relationship. I'm afraid I'm a little too old fashioned for that, and I have a really hard time thinking about her with another woman. But I should try, right? Is there anything I can do to hold on to her? Signed, Cheer

Dear C,

Dr. Dyke is a little old school too, and would like to offer you a spanking for thinking it's wrong to have your own values! In the same way that you don't like Melissa Etheridge, you don't want the love of your life sticking

her tongue down anyone else's throat. Perfectly reasonable. It's not like you're asking her to forsake her Melissa Etheridge collection, or put her socks inside the laundry hamper instead of beside it. You have to love yourself the most, and respect that everyone is different. As heartbreaking as it sounds, sometimes two people who really love each other can not live happily ever after, because they don't share the same values. If there's one thing that Dr. Dyke keeps learning again and again and again, it's that you can't change people. Get a strong sense of who you are, stay true to that, and be clear with your gf. And if all else fails, try getting pregnant, buying another pet, fake an illness or buy a house together!

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AIDS Monument in Lincoln Park Gets Final Approval from City of Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA – The nine-year dream to construct an AIDS monument in the eastside has overcome a big hurdle with the approval from the Recreation and Parks Commission. On Thursday, March 20th, the Recreation and Parks voted to approve the lease agreement with The Wall-Las Memorias Project, pending the organization meets all required conditions set forth by City of Los Angeles. The early morning commission

meeting was attended by community members who voiced their support for the project. "The approval today is a reflection of the project's leadership working hard to make this dream a reality", said John Echeveste, board Member of The Wall-Las Memorias Project. Richard Zaldivar, Founder and Executive Director of The Wall-Las Memorias Project, commented on the approval by saying, "It was a long time coming to reach this crucial point. With the support of the Mayor James Hahn and Council member Ed Reyes, the process to negotiate the lease agreement could not have happened without their time and dedication to this project. I am grateful for their commitment to help increase HIV/AIDS awareness in the community." On February 20th, the Cultural Affairs Commission unanimously approved the artwork presented by The Wall-Las Memorias Project for the six murals of the AIDS monument. This action from Cultural Affairs allowed the project to head back to the Recreation and Parks Commission to seek final approval of the lease agreement. The six art

renderings were selected on February 18th from a field of fifteen semi-finalists. A national call for artists was sent in December of 2002, with over three thousand request for qualifications mailed to artists. The jury selected to choose artists for the murals included: Oscar Garcia, President, Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council; Robin Brailsford, Public Artist, Dennis Martinez, Member, Cultural Affairs Commission; Iris Miranda, board member and field deputy to State Senator Gilbert Cedillo; Tomas Benitez, Executive Director, Self-Help Graphics; and Richard Zaldivar, Executive Director and Founder of The Wall-Las Memorias Project. The jury selected 15 artists who were then commissioned to produce renderings for the murals of the AIDS monument with the following criteria: creative style, community relevance and cultural sensitivity. Six renderings were chosen and presented before Cultural Affairs. Following the approval from the Recreation & Parks Commission, the city council must approve the action of the commission.

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Outfront Minnesota Hails Withdrawal Of Civil Rights Repeal Bill

SF 545, a bill that would comprehensively roll back basic civil rights protections for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) Minnesotans, was withdrawn by its Senate sponsor today in response

to unrelenting criticism of its unprecedented scope.

"After most members of the Senate Judiciary Committee had identified the numerous flaws in SF 545, it was apparent that the proposal was doomed," said Monica Meyer, Public Policy Director for OutFront Minnesota, the state's leading direct service and public policy agency serving Minnesota's GLBT community and its allies. "As a result, Sen. Jungbauer wisely retreated from his efforts to eviscerate the Minnesota Human Rights Act."

That the bill was in trouble was strongly evidenced by the fact that its sponsor

replaced its original, lengthy text with a proposal to permit people to ignore the law based on religious beliefs. Supporters then attempted to amend this language to bar discussion of GLBT people or issues in schools. This effort was turned back, and eventually the entire bill was "laid on the table."

"By ending discussion of this destructive bill, the Senate has moved swiftly to preserve the fundamental civil rights all Minnesotans enjoy," said OutFront Minnesota Executive Director Ann M. DeGroot. "We strongly appreciate the outspokenness of Committee members in addressing the real issue

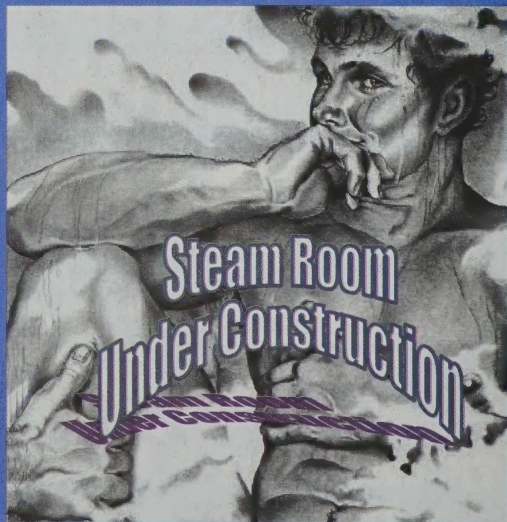
here, namely protecting the basic commitment to fairness for all." Because of lengthy Committee debate on the bill, DeGroot was the only person to speak in opposition to the bill; only two people, aside from its author, testified in its favor.

"The Senate Judiciary Committee saw this bill for what it was: a mean-spirited effort to endorse discrimination. Even though its supporters claimed they bore no ill will to GLBT people, stripping us of basic civil rights protections is nothing short of a cruel attack," DeGroot said.



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Accepting Changes

By **Joey Gierulski**
Assistant-Editor

It is that time of year again. When it seems that everything around us is changing. The seasonal transition is the most noticeable of them all, but are we noticing anything else? Are we accepting these changes? Some people don't deal well with change, but we must accept that change is inevitable.

Many people have noticed some change around our little community. Unfortunately I hear a lot from the people that don't like the changes that they see. I tend to think of these people as 'old-fashioned'. They might not see themselves this way, but I do, and I think that others do too. What makes these people old fashioned? Personally, I think it's because they like to do things the way they are used to doing things, the old way. Could it be that these people don't like what they see, or that they just don't like what's happening? Or do they like the changes, but don't like who's making them? I have seen some great examples of that in the

past month, but I won't bring up the details, there are just too many to talk about.

Many of us see things through a very narrow spectrum, with no room to see a bigger picture and see things from a different point of view. This is possibly the biggest reason why some people don't deal with changes very well, because they are too narrow-minded. They don't like to see someone, or something new come along and change the way they have been doing things over the years.

Some people don't like seeing someone younger make changes that will affect how they do things. I have

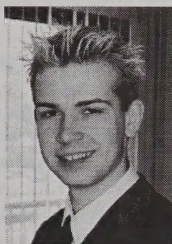
lived through many examples of this in the past year. The way I look at it is, it's not how old you are, or who you are, it's how well you can do things that makes you good at what you do. I guess in a way age can make a difference in certain situations, I understand that. But I don't think I fully understand what the issue is when someone younger comes along to make a change. I guess it has something to do with the fear that someone younger might come along and make changes for the better. Or someone younger might shed new light to a situation that no one else has seen before.

I am not trying to attack the older people in our community, I just want them to see that this community is sitting in the past, and not moving on into the future. I do respect what they have done for us. They have opened up the doors for the gay community to step into the future, but for some reason when some people went through those doors, they kept going. The rest just stopped and went back inside. These are the ones who can't accept the fact that times are changing, people are changing, and lives are changing. It's like they don't want to move into the future. The world goes on into the future, while certain someone's are still stuck behind the doors, trying as hard as they can to keep change

from happening. I understand that certain people have been around a lot longer, and have seen the trials and tribulations of our world, and have a wealth of information to share, but just remember that the way things were done in the past aren't always right for today's world. Some of the ideas are, but not all of them.

I guess this is when the younger leaders of today should start tossing in some input. I think we have seen what's been done in the past. I think we have learned from the mistakes of our predecessors, it's time to make the change to move into the future, instead of sitting in the past.

**Someone You Know
and Love is Gay**



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Strange As The Latest Science Fiction Novel

By Laurie Blakeman MLA

I'm going into my seventh year as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. I am still amazed at what comes out of the Klein government's mouth.

Take for example the Financial Statutes Amendment Act – which puts in place a Stability Fund which we Liberals have been pushing for, for a number of years. When the Tories started to discuss the virtues of the Act, they once again raised the intergenerational debt argument. That's the one about how the government saved future generations of children from debt and deficit. I'm always fascinated by that argument because it's like

the Tories to think that a meteor or an act of God or a firestorm or something created the debt. The truth is — the very same Conservative government that sits across from me in the legislature created the debt. It took the Tories 20 years to rack up the debt and 10 years to pay it off.

And you have to ask yourself who is bearing the brunt of the government's choices on paying down that debt racked up by the Tories. That would be our kids and our grand-kids. How? Well, look at the cost of university tuition and tuition to colleges and institutes of technology. Who is carrying that debt on behalf of this government? Those students are. It didn't even take a full generation to transfer that debt. Klein did it in less than 10 years by transferring it directly onto the shoulders of every single Albertan that was attending an educational institution and their parents.

The other issue that I think is about as strange as the latest science fiction novel is the Klein government's idea that it was some astonishing, brilliant, economic theory that helped this government devise the plan to get rid of the deficit and the debt. To me, this is pretty basic stuff. The money came from high oil and gas prices, which gave us surpluses. In fact, it bubbled up through the ground and all the

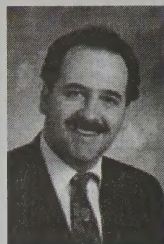
government had to do was sit back and reap the benefits. It wasn't good planning as much as it was blind luck. You have oil at 40 bucks a barrel even a 7-year old could build a surplus at those prices.

So why is the Klein government so proud of passing the Financial Services Act? Usually you pass laws when you know that there's a tendency to do something and you're trying to curb that tendency. So every time members of this government get up and beat their chests and have ticker tape parades about how gosh darn wonderful they are for having passed an act to keep themselves from overspending are they saying that it's their tendency to overspend? Certainly that's evidenced by their 20 years' worth of debt creation.

After 7 years of being on the job, I thought I had seen it all, but it's clear the strangeness continues "under the dome". It certainly underlines the fact that as Albertans, we're living in "interesting times".

If you have a particular issue and would like to be on an email list for me to send you copies of questions asked in Question Period, please send me your email address and let me know whether you are a constituent or where in Alberta you live. You can reach me at my new email address blakeman@laurieblakeman.com or call (780) 414-0743 or

drop by #3, 9908-109 Street, Edmonton, AB. T5K 1H5



Alberta is Number 1 (In high power bills)

By Brian Mason

Three years ago, before the Klein government started mucking around with our electricity system, we had some of the lowest power prices in Canada. With the exception of provinces that get their electricity from hydro sources, we paid the least for our power.

Now, the situation is almost exactly the opposite.

Every year, Quebec Hydro does a survey of power prices across Canada. They look at the price in 11 major cities across the country. In 2000, Edmonton had the fourth lowest bills. In the last survey, Edmonton came dead last. Our capital city has higher power prices than any other city in Canada.

So much for the Alberta advantage. The Tories argue that it's all Epcor's fault. But guess what? Manitoba Hydro also did a survey of

power prices, and they looked at even more cities. They looked at small towns, and they looked at rural areas. And in every category, Alberta came out the worst. And not just in EPCOR areas. ATCO and ENMAX also have power prices higher than the rest of Canada.

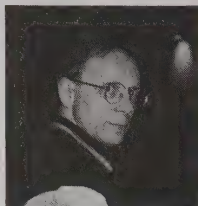
This is a sensitive topic at the Legislature these days. The Tories don't like to admit that living on a sea of oil and natural gas has done nothing for our own power bills. In the run up to the last election, the Tories spent a fortune on natural gas rebates. In that sensitive pre-election period, government MLAs spoke of the hardship created by prices in the \$5.50/GJ range.

That compassion for the plight of the average Albertan disappeared once the ballots were counted. While \$5.50/GJ was a price so high rebates were necessary, today's natural gas price is \$8.50/GJ in the North, and higher in Southern Alberta. The government just released its 3rd quarter financial results, and the government is taking in over \$6 billion in resource royalties, \$2.7 billion more than budgeted.

Our party's rebate policy would cost only 1/25th of the government's windfall energy revenue. In Medicine Hat, the city owned utility is giving residents cut rate gas prices. Manitoba and Saskatchewan have lower gas prices than Alberta.

Natural Gas belongs to the people of Alberta. Too bad the Tories don't want us to enjoy some of the benefits of that ownership.

Lou Arab
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www.newdemocrats.ab.ca



Got the Oil?

*By Dennis Cambly
Managing Editor*

Almost everyone knows that the only reason the current government in the United States, (along with the little American puppet in England) are in Iraq is for the oil. Even our own minion Klein stepped up to the plate and agreed that thousands of civilians' deaths are worth the oil; and he should know. Sitting on billions of dollars in surplus money our own government has given us no relief on oil and gas prices.

It has not gone unnoticed that Dick the prick Cheney is sitting back waiting to move his own company into Iraq so he can become richer than Bill Gates. Cheney is implicated in the wave of corporate scandals for allegedly fraudulent accounting practices carried out by an oil firm Halliburton he headed before taking office. If anyone thinks it is okay to bomb a nation day and night then there are mental institutions for him

or her. Next on the bombing block is likely Iran or maybe Syria. It is okay though, because they do not hold the same beliefs as some of the right wing fundamental groups within our free nations. Free, because you are free to have your life savings blown away and have no say in the matter. Free, because you can line up at the gas pumps and make the wealthy companies even more money. Free, because you can put on an extra blanket because you do not have enough money to heat your house. Free, because you can leave the homeless and under privileged on the streets and do nothing for them.

Did you notice that the main television networks stopped showing the mushroom clouds after the first day? The terrorist attack on Iraq was too much for most civilized people to take just as the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001. Pure and simple terrorism, only this time it was to protect the steady supply of oil to the only country that consumes most of the world's energy, the United States. Mark my words now as you will see a steady flow of oil from Iraq going to the United States over the next few years. The people of Iraq will see nothing but foreign aid from other countries that promised to do so, including the already promised 240 million from Canada. We as a nation will give more over time along with peace keepers until the United States is satisfied that it has the flow of oil going to take care of it's gluttonous need for fossil fuel.

I am saddened by any deaths due to this unneeded fight

over oil. To the soldiers and people of Iraq I feel they deserve an apology, and from me, I am truly sorry that any of this took place. The Bush family has an obsessive-compulsive disorder to kill and to me they have shown that they are no better than Saddam. We will likely never know how many civilians were killed because to the Bush family they are meaningless. As to Bush's comments about anyone being tried as War Criminals, he might have checked his notes, since he refused to sign the agreement to have a world court system, but then we know he cannot tell the difference between France and Spain. All he knows is kill as many people as possible just to get the oil fields and protect them.

Many thanks from the majority of Canadians to our legitimately elected majority government and our Prime Minister Jean Chrétien for protecting our sovereignty. We can see the consequences in Iraq of what the world's bully can do by bombing a country that does not agree with the current U. S. administration. So, Klein keep giving them our oil, gas and electricity and rates far below what we pay and stand there, the dry drunk that you are, and kiss their collective U.S. administration ass!

History does teach lessons and for that just go back 500 years to see the wicked ways that groups of people were treated, much the same way minority groups are treated in Alberta. What shame hangs over us when in the future, people will look back at us and shake their heads in dismay that we could do such terrorists acts against each other.

The Orlando Corner

By Jacqueline Dumas

By day, Ann Thayer was a young suburban wife, mother and aspiring writer. By night, she was secretly exploring the lesbian bars of Greenwich Village in New York. It was the 1950's and lesbianism was illegal.

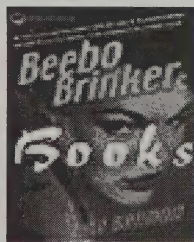


At the time, the threat of having the police show up on your doorstep was real and most lesbian writers used pseudonyms. Ann Thayer chose the pseudonym Ann Bannon to describe the underground gay life she was in the process of discovering. Her novels were a breath of fresh air in an era when lesbian protagonists in novels routinely went mad or died a tragic death. In her books, women who reject their lesbianism go mad, and those who remain in marriages become progressively more bitter and unhappy.

Bannon's novels thrilled thousands of women and confirmed what they already suspected: that they were not alone. Sporting the lurid covers of the pulps of the day, the books found their way onto drugstore racks in cities and small towns throughout North America.

Ann Bannon published five interlinked novels with butch-femme dynamics. In *Beebo Brinker* [1962], young Beebo, fresh from the Midwest, is a young butch coming out in Greenwich Village gay culture. In *Odd Girl Out* [1957], shy Laura falls in love with her college roommate Beth, who freaks out and quickly gets married [only to be miserable later]. In *I Am a Woman* [1959], Laura, now fresh out of college, moves to New York City and works by day in an office, by night searching for love in the

lesbian bars. *Woman in the Shadows* [1959] depicts Laura leaving the now-alcoholic Beebo and marrying Jack, a gay friend. In this novel Bannon explores interracial romance and, remarkably for the times, same-sex marriage. In *Journey to a Woman* [1960], Beth finally flees her miserable marriage and goes in search of Laura – instead finding



happiness with a recovered Beebo.

Ann Bannon's novels have withstood the test of time. They were reprinted by Naiad Press in the 1980's, and now, in the twenty-first century, are being reissued by Cleis Press.



For more information go to www.annbannon.com.

Don't forget the Lesbian Book Club that meets at Audrey's Books at 7:30 PM on the last Wednesday of the month. JackieDumas@AudreysBooks.co

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(\$100 with 1/4 page Banner Ad)
Business \$250.00
(\$200 with 1/4 page Banner Ad)

Outside Back Cover Full Page \$650.00 (full colour)

Inside Front Cover Full Page..... \$575.00 (full colour)

Inside Back Cover Full Page..... \$525.00 (full colour)

(Cover ads are full page size and can be bleed or no-bleed)

Line Listing \$50.00

Address

Phone/Fax

E-mail/Web site

Free for community groups

NOTE: A line listing is included in all display ads

2003 Pride Pages - ALL ADVERTISING MATERIAL IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO USE ART FROM LAST YEARS PUBLICATION

Digest Format FULL TRIM SIZE: 5.25" x 8"

Setting up full page bleed ads

*Full page ads may opt for bleed capabilities. Set up document to trim size (crop marks if film), which is 5.25" width x 8" height, and bleed images 1/4" beyond trim. Live area is 4.625" W x 7.375"H.

Publisher is not responsible for images and text outside the live area.

Colour: (CMYK) \$120.00 Unless Film Supplied

Creative/ Normal Layout & Design: Full Page: \$150; Two thirds Page: \$100; Half Page: \$60.00; Quarter Page or Less: \$50

Scans, black and white: \$10.00 per scan Scans, color: \$20.00 per scan

MAC FILES MUST BE CONVERTED TO PC FORMAT (a \$25 conversion fee will be charged for MAC files)

Image File Formats: TIFF, EPS or JPG

NOTE: GRAPHICS CHARGES AS LISTED ABOVE WILL BE APPLIED TO ANY OTHER FORMAT

All digital files must be accompanied by matchprint for color ads or laser for B&W and greyscale ads. If no matchprint is provided, colour will be run to industry standard density. Proofs will be delivered sent electronically, by fax or courier. All courier fees will be billed. ANY VARIATION FROM THESE SPECIFICATIONS WILL RESULT IN EXTRA CHARGES

ALL OUTSTANDING BALANCES MUST BE PAID IN FULL
DUE TO SLOW RESPONSE FROM THE COMMUNITY
DEADLINES & PUBLICATION DATES HAVE CHANGED
DEADLINE FOR ART & FULL PAYMENT MARCH 14, 2002
PUBLICATION DATE: APRIL 11, 2003

Speaking of "Normal"

By Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW

Clinical Social Worker

The phone rang late on a Monday evening. My Dad had died; gently, lying beside the woman he adored. When your Dad lives to be 93 years, 6 months and 8 days old, the thought of this eventuality certainly crosses your mind from time to time. A couple of winters ago, he had three bouts of pneumonia and we thought that the end was near. But we were wrong; he had more birthday cakes to have, more parties to enjoy. How would I respond, I had often wondered? What would it be like to become an "adult orphan" once both parents were dead.

But now, the loss is real, not wondered. His body is gone, but the memories keep flooding in. Thankfully, they are mostly good ones but I keep thinking about how as he aged, he kept getting smaller and smaller. He was never a big man but he sure did shrink.

I could write lots about my Dad and about our relationship but this

column is about grief and living the loss. The Unitarian minister spoke at the service of there not being loss without love and no love without loss. That is so very true.

The process of dealing with my work, with the folks who come to my office looking for ways to better find answers for the problems in their lives, when I myself am dealing with a huge loss, is intriguing. Part of what is interesting is the responses I receive the cards, flowers, hugs, the cups of tea poured when I get too distracted to focus. Others can't deal with loss directly and try to just ignore it. Some make comments about "are you fine, now?" reminding me of how urgent their need is for my full attention.

Grief is an unpredictable creature. Grief has a life all its own, its own agenda, purpose and way of being. Sometimes it's as though there is an extra circuit in my body that is busy draining energy into a circuit called grief. And the circuit breaks just when it darn well pleases. And nothing seems to matter, it's very self serving, and just when things seem to have settled down, sparks fly and circuit takes over, with tears, distraction, memories, disbelief coming from nowhere. A friend brought me some of his homemade jam, and

this morning I cried over it cause my Dad loved raspberries the most (well, most after wild blueberries on his waffles on Sunday morning), and somehow my friend brought the jam Dad would have loved the most.

Grief grabs the fuse on my temper and cuts hunks off it and the fuse goes off for no apparent reason. It wreaks havoc on my memory, filling its banks with family related stuff and eliminating stuff like the time my first appointment is on any given day.

Grief also tries to tell me "you should be fine by now, what's the matter with you." Nonsense I know, but still, this is a tiresome process.

Another friend told me he spent six months just stunned and going through the motions after his mom died, and I find that hugely comforting, that others can understand the distraction.

At the service of celebration, folks spoke of things Dad did they loved, as well of stuff that he did that drove them crazy, of some of the struggles in his life. It's important that in our grief we not reify, not turn everyone into a saint like being. That helps too, to not have to pretend he was perfect.

This to me is one of the most important parts of healthy grieving; the not

having to pretend someone was either perfect or awful. No one is either all the time and we need to wallow in our memories of both. We need to talk about both, as hard and, at times, disrespectful it may seem.

Grief saps my energy, forcing me to be slower, to dump less nurturing activities. And that is not such a bad thing; so when grief does that, I pay attention.

Grief, in many ways, is our friend, forcing us to pay attention to the change in our life, to not just gloss over it and go on to the next activity. We live in a society with little patience for grief, but that is a tragic mistake that catches us in the end. Grief is a living, changing process that changes over time, grabbing tight, loosening, disappearing and reappearing, as we need. Not necessarily as we like, but as we need. We all do it differently, but we all do it just exactly the right way for us.

(The opinions expressed in this column are those of the writer alone.)

They are not meant to replace consultation with a qualified accountable mental health professional. Any client related information is altered considerably to protect identity.)

Edmonton Pride Week Society April 2003

As with so many other organizations, every year the EPWS elects a new Executive. That new Executive comes with their own experience, their own ideas, and most importantly, with a fresh start. Especially with Pride Week, feelings and grudges from previous years tend to flow forward into the new year, and this shouldn't be. Every year brings new faces, new energy, and hopefully always an improvement in the Pride Festival itself. I just mention

this to remind you all that it's only through the entire community staying involved year after year that Pride Week will continue to be a success.

One way that this year's Executive has attempted to ensure that is by registering the Edmonton Pride Week Society as an official society, and this has been done now. Just prior to writing this article, our application and bylaws were finally approved, and so it is with great pride (no pun intended), that we can now say the EPWS is incorporated. This means we're a legal body that has no choice but to be accountable, and we hope that this will solve some of the problems and grudges from previous years.

This year's Pride Festival, THE FLAME WITHIN, is

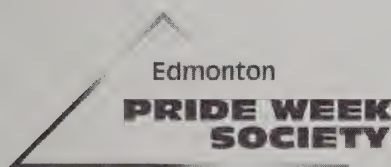
coming up incredibly fast. It runs from June 13 - 22, and there are already quite a few events booked. For more information on booked events, to book your own pride event, or to see more about the EPWS, be sure to check us out online at <http://www.prideedmonton.org>

The Parade will be Sunday June 15, and will have a similar route to last year. It will start on 111 St, go west on Jasper then north into Oliver Park. At the Arena, there will be the Beer Gardens, an entertainment stage, and the Edmonton Rainbow Business Association will be holding their business fair. With it being a Sunday, there's nothing to rush off to, and if the weather's as fantastic as last year, it will be a great afternoon. Even if the weather isn't great, the inside of the arena will still allow a great time.

The Dance will be Saturday June 22 at the Polish Hall. Six DJs over 2 floors will keep the party going right till Last Call, with country & western and rock downstairs, and retro and dance upstairs. The dance is guaranteed to be an awesome party to bring Pride Festival 2003 to a finish.

But, like I said above, Pride is coming up really quick, and we still need a lot of volunteers to help the Parade, Post-parade Fair, and Dance run smoothly, and that's where we need you. If you'd like to volunteer for any activity during Pride Week or help during the planning of those activities, come to our General Meeting April 24 at the Garage at 8 PM or email our volunteer coordinator Marla at pridevolunteers@gayedmonton.com

Happy Pride!!



**General
Meeting**
April 24
8 PM
The Garage
10244 106 St.

Pride Week 2003
June 13 - 22

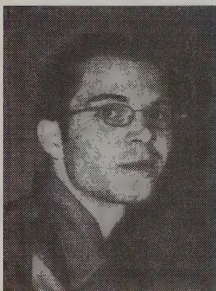


www.prideedmonton.org

They Just Don't Care

By Rob Browatzke

I write this column every month and obviously someone reads it. Once in a while, someone comes up to tell me so, saying how it struck a chord with them. As nice as that is to hear, for the most part, the column is intensely self-serving, rife with inside jokes, bitchy remarks directed at a chosen few, and semi-hypocritical



self-analysis. It will start off at one place and end somewhere else entirely, and when the end does illuminate something earlier, I'm as surprised as anyone else. What's more, the fact that occasionally it actually resonates with a larger audience shocks me. This column is where all the rages, regrets, and secrets I've kept hidden spew forth in a monthly flood of words, like some literary menstruation.

This month is no different.

Fags seem to live life more intensely than straight people. I mean, who else, other than a fag, can go through marriage, adultery, and divorce, alcoholism, rehab, and relapse, quit one job, find another, change apartments, and accomplish all of that before Last Call? And go on to call it a slow Saturday! In their incestuous social circles, they live out their lives in what passes for contentment. So what if these circles can be so much like an "I slept with so-and-so" Fan Club where sex is the only way in, and there is no way out. So what if the parade of tricks and one-nighters is seemingly endless, a Safeway-brand serial monogamy that accomplishes nothing more than a worn-out mattress. In a shiny disco ball nightclub world where you fall in love every fifteen minutes and fall off your barstool every nine, so what?

Fags are fickle creatures. Boyfriends cheat in front of each other. Friendships are cast aside in the pursuit of good head. Family, religion, morality, these are all bonds that are cast off in a shiny happy world of posers and poodles, of queens clawing for a tin crown, of twinkles looking no farther than a label and labeling themselves as shallow in the process. It's a superficial wonderland, a morality play that teaches by showing the immoral, a cesspool of booze, drugs, sex, and Shania. Conversations can be limited to "whatcha drinking" "top or bottom"

"how hung" "where to". That's all they need to know to move from vodka-on-the-rocks to getting their rocks off, and what more is there?

Now don't get me wrong. I'm about as faggy as they come. After four years of University filled with almost full-time gay volunteering, I moved up here, worked at Down Under, Boots, and the Roost (and still sort of do at all three), do this column, joined Edmonton's Village People which brought me into the ISCWR, where I went from Prince to Emperor to President in rapid succession, as well as being on Edmonton Pride Week Society's Executive. Aside from family, I couldn't name a straight person I talk to on any sort of regular basis and it seems that if I'm not out at a gay bar, I'm on a gay chatline, watching a gay movie with a gay friend, or doing something else equally gay. So clearly, I don't have a major problem with the whole gay thing. Or do I?

It just seems to me that the magic's faded. You hear talk of the glory days of gay bars. "Do you remember that night at Flashback..." "...and Boots was packed every night..." "...every night at the Roost was as busy as a Saturday..." And then you look around and the current situation just doesn't match up to the memory. Oh, you can blame it on the smoke, you can blame it on the drugs, you can blame it on the fact that people just don't drink as much anymore, or that all that old crowd has coupled off and moved on from "the scene". There are lots of things you can blame it on, but the fact of the matter is, there was always smoke, there was always drugs, people still swill, and for every person who's moved on from the bar scene, two more have come out.

The problem is, we've evolved past the gay bar. Not only are there dozens of other places and ways to cruise for sex now, we yelled and screamed and hollered to be treated just like everyone else, to have people acknowledge that sexual orientation is no different than race or gender, and now that's come back to bite us in the ass. We don't NEED gay bars anymore (particularly if you're in an excruciatingly long line-up an hour before Last Call). With a straight world becoming more and more accepting of queerness, we pick our bars based on music or location or whatever, not because of a big neon rainbow out front. Oh, of course, having that "safe space" is still important, but it seems that that importance is decreasing rapidly.

For the proof of that, look at all the out gay people who lead happy lives, meet fabulous partners, have the same fantastic parties, and are able to do it all without setting foot inside a gay bar. Further, in spite of supposedly being completely self-actualized, they consider gay bars, and those who go to them, beneath them. How times have changed from when you almost had to go to the bar to meet someone! Now, those very same clubs are actually used as a reason NOT to be with someone!

And yet, no matter how much the Gay Bar might be stumbling about like a dinosaur on the verge of extinction, that is still not the problem. The Gay Bar is but one leaf on the plant of the queer subculture, and when a leaf begins to wilt, to turn from colored beauty to brown decay, the problem isn't in the leaf. The problem is deeper, in the roots which feed that leaf, and in the soil which gives those roots life.

Ten years ago, the gay community was leading the world in a war against HIV. Now, we've got

stupid twinks posting messages on the Gayedmonton.com Cruiseboard looking for hot hung tops for bareback action because, as they so intelligently point out, everyone knows that youth is the smallest group for current rates of HIV infection! Have we become so lax that such blatant misinformation is actually accepted as Gospel Truth? But you can't point out the error of their thinking either. The flash of that strobe light may be fading, but it is still bright enough to obscure the days of fear and funerals from a generation of people breast-fed on safer sex information. They have rejected that mother's milk, and now, they just don't care.

They just don't care. Look around. Gay bars might be suffering a decline in business, but so too do our community groups. Reduced membership numbers, decreased funding, decreased interest, all leave our charitable groups on as shaky ground as our clubs seem to be. In a city of almost a million people, our Gay and Lesbian Center struggles to find enough volunteers to man phones they struggle to keep connected. Groups like the ISCWR, which provided years of fundraising for causes such as AIDS hospices, Children's Wish Foundation, and that same Gay and Lesbian Center, hold on to their antiquated ways of fundraising, even though the dollars don't seem to be flooding in the way they once did. This very magazine you're reading, a not-for-profit community paper, doesn't have nearly the support from the population that it should; the need for volunteers hours and donor dollars is never-ending, for Times .10, for ISCWR, for GLCCE, for all of them. But no one can be bothered. What has happened to a community that cared?

Have we lost our way? Has winning so many battles in the war for equal rights robbed us of a common cause that brought us together in spite of our internal differences? Have we become so converted to Dionysus that Apollo no longer receives his due; do we prefer the wine and the decadence to the battle for truth and justice? Look at our own Gay Pride Festival every year. Where it once was a "we're here, we're queer, get used to it" political slap-in-the-face to all of those who'd rather pretend that "queers don't exist", it's now just one more week of partying in a year-long New Year's Eve. Its lost its meaning,

lost its significance, and that rainbow flag's six colors seem faded as a result.

Are we so insanely selfish that we really can't be bothered to work for a common good anymore? Or is it that we don't have a common good to work for? There was AIDS, a battle that while still being waged, has become, justly, non-exclusive to the gay community. There



was equal rights, but already we see that enough has been accomplished that we can't agree amongst ourselves where we should fight hardest next. There seem to be as many people anti-same-sex-marriage as there are pro, within our own community. How can any battle be won when the goal can't even be agreed upon?

So what is the point of it all? As I said near the beginning, I do this once a month, holding up a mirror to my thoughts, my feelings, my life. When someone sees themselves in what I say, I'm as genuinely surprised as anyone else. Still, I would like to think that there is some deeper truth to be found in what many of you will write off as bitter rambling. Perhaps that truth is simple this: the wars that we fought, that served to unite us

together as a community, those wars have changed. It is no longer simply about recognition, about equal treatment, about finding a cure. There is a new battlefield now, one entirely within our community. It is a war fought by twinks and trolls, by chubs and jocks, by butchy-type construction workers and flamey little poodles, by queens and clubkids, by everyone. It's a war to answer the question "now that our other battles are winding down, what are we fighting for now? What can we, as a community, work together for now?" The side that says "nothing, no common goal left, no reason to be united" seems to be winning too often lately, a side that's happy to wile away the hours on a dancefloor, cheering for the shooter sales, scoring with the latest stud. That can't be

the winning side, and so the war goes on. A war far more relevant to this one flag than Dubya's dream. A war to fight nightly in those very clubs, by enjoying the party as much as everyone else but trying to accomplish some good at the same time. After all, good times with good goals, isn't that what the gay community is all about?

... putting the pieces of your life together...

...through uncertainty to new possibilities...

LIZ MASSIAH, MSW, RSW

Clinical Social Worker

780 415 5434

780 415 5433 Fax,

email: emassiah@interbaun.com

web page: <http://clubweb/interbaun.com/emassiah/html>

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203, 10129 124 St

Edmonton, Ab, T5N 2P5

Rainbows

By Mikey Wilson

The Covenant (Promise) of God's Unending Love

In Genesis Chapter 9, we learn where rainbows come from. After the flood of Noah, God again has compassion on all of creation. God expresses this compassion by establishing a new covenant with Noah and all his descendants and with every living creature, "...the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark." (Genesis 9:11) This brings into serious question the theory of human superiority that claims the animal, bird, fish, plant kingdoms are nothing to God and only humanity matters. Obviously this is not the case as clearly expressed in this covenant. Specifically, God promises all of us that floodwaters shall never end this world. That is the specific expression of the real matter, but there is a lot more meaning to this covenant.

What God again is doing is expressing immeasurable love for all creation, not just humanity, all of creation. Jesus says God knows each sparrow, (Matt 10:29) And Jesus says the lilies of the field are more beautiful than all of King Solomon's rich clothing, (Mat 6:28-29). The psalms are filled with statements like the rivers clap their hands at the presence of the Lord, mountains and hills bless the Lord, fruit trees and cedars bless the Lord, sea creatures,

birds of the air, beasts wild and tame, and ultimately, let everything that has life and breath praise the Lord.

These Scriptures demand that we move past the idea that our religion is only a mental exercise or a simple assembling, something just to sit and stand and speak and sing about it. No, in fact all creation is well aware of God, actively involved with God and what God is planning to do. Remember, Paul says creation itself is groaning as it also waits for our redemption. (Rom 8:22 & 23) At the birth of Christ we are told that a star assisted in the announcement of his birthplace, a later the earth quakes at moment of his death. At the transfiguration Jesus was bathed in Light, and this is another example of nature taking part in the proclamation of God's plan. We are told that somehow Jesus was taken into heaven on clouds. "Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the LORD." (Psalm 150)

Most of us agree that rainbows are truly beautiful to behold. Everyone stops to see a rainbow, and everyone has an innate feeling that rainbows are special. Science tells us how just the right amount of moving moisture and mixed with sunlight at just the right angle will produce a rainbow, but science believes it is all chance. But I believe that it isn't chance at all. God shows rainbows to speak to us from heaven and say I love you. Science may be able to tell us of the right formula of light and water to make this happen, but science has no way of explaining the love of

God that causes rainbows to appear and proclaim God's message of unconditional love and unbreakable covenants with us and with all of creation.

There will be those of you out there that probably think I just went off the deep end, but I assure you I did not. This covenant is one of many that God has made in attempt after attempt to tell humanity that God operates completely from a position of love. Whatever God does begins with love, continues in love and ends in love. God is love. (1 John 4:8)

This covenant that is made with all of creation through the faithfulness of Noah proclaims God's love of creation so loudly that it is almost deafening. This is really a covenant of mercy and grace.

When God made this covenant with Noah, God knew what we would be like in the year 2003. God could look down through time and see us, see who we really are. God knew about Lambda Christian Community Church before the first rainbow was created! God knew you that you would be would be reading this today. The greatest wonder of this covenant is that God has continually promised love, mercy and forgiveness to us and all of creation.

God loves us even when we do not love ourselves. Many of us have been taught to not love ourselves. In fact, we have been taught to strongly dislike ourselves. But the promise is that the eternal lover of all creation enters right into our self-hatred, our struggle with self.

In 1978 Gilbert Baker of San Francisco decided to fly a rainbow flag to represent Gay and Lesbian freedom. Anything I have ever read about how he came up with the idea does not indicate it was for religious reasons, and it is unlikely he had even a clue that there was no more appropriate symbol in all creation than the rainbow. Now, 25 years later the rainbow flag has come to express our desire for equal love for all people regardless of gender, sexuality, race, creed, custom, ethnicity, social status, or economic position. The rainbow flag is now being used to say we need to celebrate diversity. Rainbow symbols appear on buttons, bumper stickers, little flags, huge flags, streamers, posters; just about anything it can be printed on, even bank checks.

When I first saw the rainbow flag at a parade I was deeply moved, I believe by the Holy Spirit. What I heard in my mind and heart was something like this. I remember hearing what I believe was the Holy Spirit saying: "There it is, my rainbow. I remember today my covenant as I see rainbow flags everywhere today. I see them in the hands of children, on the strollers of babies, in the hands of young men and women, and in the hands of the elderly, and yes I am remembering my covenant right now as I see you, and yes I am keeping my covenant with all of you. All of you out here, I see you, I hear you, I am with you. If you only knew how much I love you. Fly my rainbow with pride! Fly it high, hang it from your house tops, fly it from your cars, cover

books with it, place it as a door mat to your home, and though you may not know it is I who am with you, I am with you always. I know your pain, I know what the liars are saying... but you never need to defend your being before me. I made you; I know more about you than you know about yourselves. Fly my rainbow! You make it look so beautiful! So many beautiful rainbows flying in the warm June sun. Fly! Fly! Fly high against my sky! Whenever I see your rainbows I will remember you by name, and I will remember how much I love you. Let me into your lives my people. I can comfort you so much and help you understand why so many do not understand my ways. You understand them. You are right; all people are beautiful in my sight. Fly my rainbow with pride today and every day. I want you to fly it. I will help you love it and if

perchance you don't find out why you love it so in this life, I will personally show you when you are home with me that I was with you all the way. I love you."

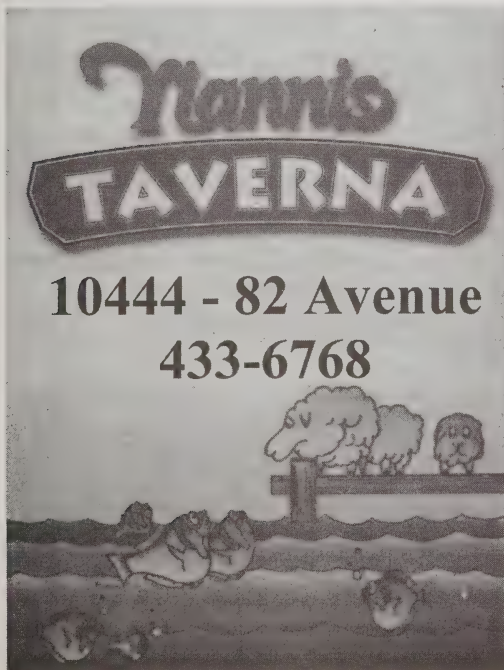
These are as best I can remember the thoughts that found a home in my heart and mind that day. Each week a representation of the rainbow graces Lambda's altar and podium. It is impossible to be in the room without seeing it. I have come to see it as one of the most important symbols in our worship space. The miracle in all this for me is that millions of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people truly believe the lies that condemn them from the so-called church, and are convinced God hates them and God will be condemning them to Hell. Yet even though they may not realize it, God found a way

right into their hearts. God had to find a way to counter the lies and shout NO! It isn't true. I do love you no matter what anyone says, no matter what you hear, no matter what you believe. God found it! God put into the heart of an unsuspecting young man the idea to make God's rainbow a symbol of the hope, a sign that speaks of liberty and justice for all. I choose to believe that God was working through Gilbert Baker when he chose that symbol, a symbol that bears God's very own signature and carries a covenant of love for God's people! God did it as a way to reach out and love us. So next time you see a rainbow sticker, flag, button, try to hold in your heart the truth, the reality that we are loved with an everlasting love, one that is eternal and beautifully expressed in the rainbow.

We need to hear again and again that God loves us, to go ahead and start loving ourselves, and affirming ourselves and joyfully embracing who God made us to be. We need to see the rainbow, hear the promise of God's love for us.

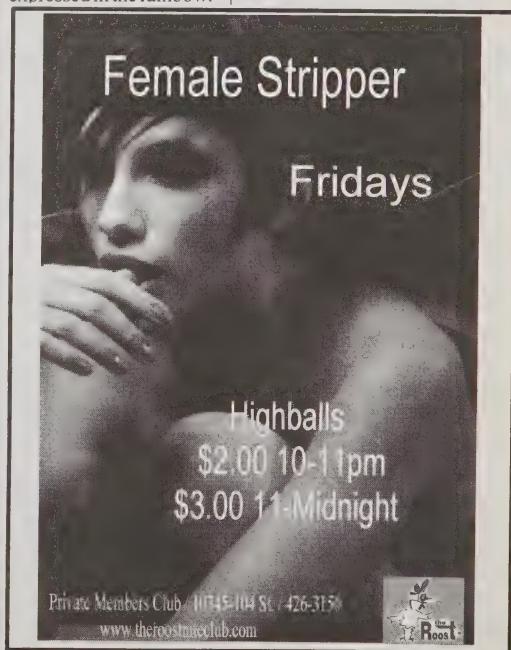
Lambda Christian
Community Church
11148 - 84 Ave,
Edmonton
Phone: 474-0753
E-mail:
lambdachurch@shaw.ca
Web site: <http://www.members.shaw.ca/lambdachurch/>

WORSHIP: Sunday
evenings @ 7 PM



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Female Stripper
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Highballs
\$2.00 10-11pm
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Private Members Club 11745-114 St / 426-3150
www.theroostnecub.com

Roost

Recognized Community Builders

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

The B.E.A.R.S of Edmonton

A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the first and third Saturday of each month. Write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3.

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218

Edmonton Prime Timers

We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities include: theatre nights, video nights, pub nights, Sunday brunches, and dining out.

We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association (ERBA)

Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends; Join us ...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends, network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm. Call Bill Faulkner for more information at 422-6207. Membership \$25.00/yr.

Edmonton Vocal Minority

Women and men of all sexual orientations dedicated to sharing and preserving the cultural heritage of the queer community. Everyone is welcome to join this mixed voice choir as either a singer or a support member. Come and sing your pride! For information: Telephone: (780) 479.2038, E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca, on the web at: <http://www.planet.eon.net/>

~toocute/evm/, or write to PO Box 12091, Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3L2.

Gay & Lesbian Centre

Providing Resources, Referrals and Support to all members of the general public regarding Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues. Suite 45, 9912 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, (780) 488-3234. WebPages with more information at <http://edmc.net/glcce/>

HIV Edmonton

HIV Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. HIV Edmonton utilizes a best practices Harm Reduction approach in Health Promotion, Advocacy and Support, as well as, maintaining an extensive Resource Centre for use by health practitioners, health promoters, community organizations and those infected and affected by HIV. For more information on the activities of HIV Edmonton, please call (780) 488-5742 or contact us by email at mail@hivedmonton.com. Visit our Website at HIV Edmonton <http://www.hivedmonton.com/>

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Cross-dressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club, Box 356, Main Post Office, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Phone: 424-2685 to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations, which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our e-mail is: wildrosecourt@yahoo.com. Visit our Website is at: Wild Rose Court <http://www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt/>

ICARE Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources & Education

Formerly Interfaith Association on AIDS, the purpose of ICARE is to enhance the well-being of people affected by HIV by offering resources and opportunities for education to service

providers and communities. You can contact us at 780-448-1768 or by e-mail at icare@oanet.com
Lambda Christian Community Church
 We are a non-denominational Christian church providing a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians and their friends. 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Place) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m. e-mail at lambdachurch@shaw.ca

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail: livepos@telusplanet.net.

Lutherans Concerned Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship.

We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call 426-0905, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: lylemillang@powersurf.com

Making Waves Swim Club (MWSC)

Open to all who are interested in lane swimming in a Masters club, we provide coaching to all levels of swimmers - those wishing to learn, those wishing to improve stroke technique and those wishing to train competitively. Drop in opportunity gives you flexibility to match your schedule. We swim at Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre, 8648 - 81 Street, Edmonton from September to June. Our members enjoy numerous social events arranged by the club. Please feel free to contact us to find out more information: Contact us at: 1. WebPages: http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm/home.htm. 2. E-mail: makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com 3. Phone: Warren 780-920-2847. 4. Attend a practice - your first swim is free!

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and women was established sixteen years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events

in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. E-mail us at: Northernchaps@telusplanet.net

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at the Second Cup on campus. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by e-mail: outreach@ualberta.ca. They also have a WebPages at OUTreach U of A <http://www.ualberta.ca/~outreach>

Youth Understanding Youth

We meet every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gay and Lesbian Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or to give your input, e-mail: yuyedm@hotmail.com. Our WebPages are at Youth Understanding Youth <http://www.virtue.nu/yuy/>

Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton

We are an open, liberal religious community that value diversity and celebrate our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered members.

With us, you are encouraged with open mind and heart to form your own set of personal beliefs. Sunday services at 9:30am and 11:15am. 12530 - 110 Avenue Ph. 454-8073. For more information, call Mike at 482-6582.

Womonspace

We are a social and recreational society for lesbians in Edmonton. We hold monthly dances and other activities. Look for our monthly newsletter around town, or phone 482-1794. Visit our WebPages at Womonspace <http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/>

Regional Organizations

Grande Prairie

Gay and Lesbian Community, Box 1492, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z3. E-mail: gpgayorg@hotmail.com

Out North

Box 2827, Yellowknife, NT., X1A 2R2, Phone line: 867-669-7279. WebPages: <http://www.yellowknife.com/ptartan/outnorth.htm> E-mail: out_north99@hotmail.com

New Group

I am looking at starting a group for Edmonton Gay Writers. The goal is to meet once a month to help each other gain new story ideas, give advice on stories already finished, etc. All interested people should phone Kyle @ (780) 479-8594. Leave a message if no one answers.

Does Anyone Want My Job?

By Mike Sinnott

I was going to save this article for May's issue, but then a little something happened. I am sad to report that the Ms. Edmonton Leather Pageant scheduled for April 5th was cancelled by the organizers. Marla explained to me that there was no one who wanted to run for the title, so they chose to put it on hold, and revisit the issue next year. No, I am not running for Ms. Edmonton Leather, but I am starting to push people who might make a great Mr. Edmonton Leather into thinking about running.

I went down this path a few months ago and wrote an article about what title holders do. I hoped to express how important it is for people to take the reigns and show leadership in the leather community and in the gay community as a whole. Edmonton, like many other places has lots of apathy. It seems harder and harder to get people involved at the community level whether as volunteers, board directors, title holders, and club or organization executives. Perhaps in the new millennium there is fatigue over AIDS, many (though not all) of our human rights have been granted, and life as gay men and women is much easier than it was 10, 20 or 30 years ago.

I do not think I need to remind people in Edmonton that though things seem fine on the outside, often underneath, things are not so rosy. Last December, the Calgary Police raided Calgary's bath house, Goliaths. Those involved in the world of BDSM, have a hard time (gay or straight) finding venues who will accept their events, especially serious ones that are not part circus show, to titillate the "reality TV" generation. There are still lots of misunderstandings about what leather is, and who leather folk are. People are still bashful for appearing gay. There are people who still feel that they have to get married, and live "normal" lives. People in Edmonton are still dying of AIDS. Substance abuse is a real issue in the gay community, still.

I would be unrealistic and naïve to say that I could fix all of those problems. Saying you could, would be the equivalent of saying "world peace" as your goal at a Miss Universe Pageant. The issue is that we can make inroads in all those areas if we as people give a little of our time and try and make a small difference. We collectively as a society seem to be running out of time.

There is never seems to be enough time between work and trying to have a life. So how do we make time?

Realistically, most volunteer positions will require 8 hours per month to do, which works out to two hours a week. That amount of time can be viewed as one work out, coffee with friends, or a movie. There is so much work that needs to be done, and many of our cities organizations are all short of board members, volunteers, fund raisers and people willing to take a lead. I am sure that any of these organizations would love you to come in, and help in any capacity you can. It's not that hard; really, I have been doing it for years. You just have to juggle things in your schedule a little, and the rewards are priceless. Many of the people who do "community" work, have been doing so for a long time, many feel burnt out, and many (and I think this is worse), get stuck in their ways.

So who wants my job? To be honest, being Mr. Edmonton Leather is not hard work. In fact, what you are expected to do is pretty minimal. You must attend the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose's Coronation Ball, Tops to Bottoms Workshop, Black Ice, Luperchalia, and show up at the next Mr. Edmonton Leather. Anything else you do is purely up to you. That is actually what is so great about this position because you get to make your year, your own. You can bring focus to issues you feel strong about, raise some money for charities, travel and get laid (guys in other cities LOVE visiting dignitaries), or just do what you are contracted to do. Just have fun with it. One thing I can say is that this has NOT been a boring year. I have met lots of great people, I have kept my "primadonna" moments down to one, and most of all I have had lots of fun. Being a title holder first and foremost is about having a good time.

So here goes.



Wanted: One male, of any sexual orientation, willing to show up on Saturday, June 14, 2003, make a speech, perform a fantasy, and maybe dance in a jock strap. Then show up at five other events, and hopefully have a great time at all of them.

In conclusion to this article I would like to thank everyone who has made this year fun. First off to Northern Chaps for supporting me this year and helping get me to Chicago for IML. Times.10 and Dennis for publishing my ramblings (I secretly enjoy writing). To Jim and Ross at Boots for giving me support both as Mr. Edmonton Leather and as an employee. To the boys of ECUM who are my brothers and buds. Thanks to Myron for the cheap boots. To Edmonton O Society, a big thanks for including me in your events this year, you taught me a great deal about diversity and leather in the straight world. A big thank you to Stephen at B & D Emporium, for the shopping spree and to Johnny and Travis at Urge Studios for all the ink, O!! Thanks to the folks at Living Positive for giving me a charity to work for. To Ron, Don, Barry, Christine and all the folks at the

Calgary Eagle who made the first "Paint the Pigs" so much fun. A huge bear hug to Billy, Mr. Bear Calgary 2002, fellow sash queen, and great friend. To Jim, Jim and David at Down Under for both help to Chicago, for letting me show my film project, and for having a hot tub to soak my tired Mr. Edmonton Leather muscles in. To Jim B. at Buddies for letting me try Paint The Pigs in Edmonton. To their Most Imperial and Sovereign Highnesses Bobby and Endora, Emperor and Empress of Edmonton, for their continual help and support this year. To Bianca (Binky), Crystal Ball, Rob B. and all the folks in the court for helping out with shows, events, and supporting me. To Shane (of the Train Fame) for singing, being and understanding. Finally a BIG kiss and thanks to my husband, for not killing me...yet.

The point of that big rambling is to show that with a little bit of effort, you can make great inroads, build bridges, and in the end have a great time. I look forward to meeting these years' crop of candidates. And to all my readers, once my year is over I can get really political, so watch out!

Thanks,
Mike Sinnott
Mr. Edmonton Leather 2002

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The Silent Eagle

By Mike Schiller

Eagle, Eagle
Where are you flying to?
Did you abandon us forever
Do you plan on a return
Or should we resign
to a new reality
in which you never existed
in the first place?

What concepts did you stand for
Or were they all just a hoax?
Everything we were taught
our entire lives
just a ruse to brainwash us
into wilful subservience
to a corrupt, malicious power core

Does it go deeper than that?
Is even our culture to be trusted?
Or was that manipulated and
Carefully designed centuries ago
So that men would feel obligated
To give up their right to live
And allow themselves to be treated
Like garbage, cast into a hateful
Battlefield because of their gender

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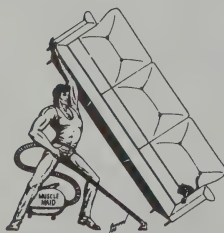
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Their minds having been shaped
And molded by false macho stereotypes
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Does it go deeper still, into the rationale
Behind physical "education"?
The great lie that we should strive to improve
Our bodies, and for whom should we improve them?
The lover we will never see again

Once our lives are stripped away from us
Or the military which wants to craft
A controllable population of involuntary "warriors"
Who can be disposed of for profit

While their families do nothing to help them
But stand and cheer and speak vicious words
Like "we're so proud of you"
What a sick deranged society
We have when a boy's parents would assist
In the sale and enslavement of their own son
And be thrilled to send him to his death

So they can call themselves "patriots"
Oh, Eagle that flies above us
Explain this to me and maybe I might forgive you
Are we expected to spend our lives defending freedom?
And when, may I ask is that 'freedom' going to reciprocate?

If the freedom is real then show it to me
Make it tangible so I can feel it
Give people choices and discard all the propaganda
Let people live without peer pressures and stigmas
Abolish stereotypes, grant equal rights to all
Limit the power of lawmakers and judges to that
Which is essential to civil rights enforcement and no more

End the reign of the military-industrial complex
And create a society in which people are accountable for
All crimes against humanity, both those committed
Outside and inside the corporate boardroom

Eagle, now you toss me a strange look
You tell me I'm crazy
Who am I to ask this of you?
Eagle, fair is fair, but I do not see fairness
Not in this society

Not in a society which would force innocents
Onto a battlefield
Not in a society which inflicts death or slavery upon the young
That's not freedom, it's captivity

Eagle, where are you going?
You can't answer me, can you?
Eagle, you never really did answer anyone
Eagle, when will you answer to the people?

Or will you ever?

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MLT News

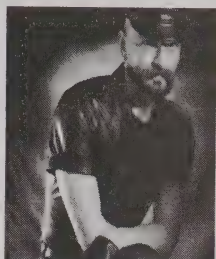
Greg Davis (Mr. Black Eagle 2003) Assumes Mr. Leather Fellowship 2003 Title

It is with deep regret that the Board of Directors of Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition Inc. announces that Stephen Penticost has resigned, due to personal reasons, as Mr. Leather Fellowship 2003. The Members and Volunteers of MLT wish Stephen all the best and sincerest thanks for all the time and effort he has given to MLT, and hope that he is soon able to return to play an active role in the

Toronto community.

Leather

In accordance with MLT policy, the Board of Directors wishes to announce that Greg Davis, Mr. Black Eagle 2003, has agreed to accept the title of Mr. Leather Fellowship 2003. Greg was the first runner-up to the title of Mr. Leather Fellowship 2003 and was the second runner up in MLT 2003. Greg will be a strong Leather Brother to Paul



Ciantar, Mr. Leatherman Toronto 2003.

Mr. Leather Fellowship is chosen by a vote of the contestants in the Mr. Leatherman Toronto Competition. They vote for who best exemplifies the qualities of Leather Fellowship and Brotherhood. In the event of Mr. Leather

Fellowship being selected Mr. Leatherman Toronto, or being unable to fulfill his commitments, then the title passes to the first runner-up. In the event of a tie during the

vote, the tie is broken by the vote of the outgoing Mr. Leather Fellowship.

For more information, images or interviews, please contact John Bassett, MLT Media Relations Coordinator at (416) 363-1259 or media@MrLT.com

Mr. Leatherman Toronto is a volunteer-based not-for-profit corporation. We are dedicated to producing events that celebrate leather culture while promoting our community and our city. Our net proceeds benefit organizations in the gay and lesbian community. This year's designated charity is the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation.

Our websites are www.MrLT.com & www.leatherball.com

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Carpooling

A man learned shortly before quitting time that he had to attend a meeting. He tried unsuccessfully to locate his car-pool members to let them know that he would not be leaving with them. Hastily he scribbled a message to one fellow and left it on his desk: "I have a last-minute meeting. Leave without me. Dave." At 7:00 p.m., the man stopped at his desk and found this note: "Meet us at the bar and grill across the street. You drove, you idiot."

Masked

A purse-snatcher was on trial and the defendant was stating what had taken place. "Yes, that's him," she said. "I saw him clear as day. I would remember his face anywhere!" At that point, the defendant yelled out "You didn't even see my face, lady. I was wearing a mask!"

Who is it?

A man joins a big corporate empire as a trainee. On his very first day of work, he dials the pantry and shouts into the phone - "Get me a coffee, quickly!" The voice from the other side responded, "You fool you've dialed the wrong extension! Do you know who you're talking to, dumb?" "No," replied the trainee. "It's the CEO of the company, you fool!" The trainee shouts back, "And do YOU know who YOU are talking to, you fool?!" "No," replied the CEO indignantly. "Good!" replied the trainee, and puts down the phone.

Kids

The fourth-grade teacher had to leave the room for a few minutes. When she returned, she found the children in perfect order. Everybody was sitting absolutely quiet. She was shocked and

stunned and said, "I've never seen anything like it before. This is wonderful. But, please tell me, what came over all of you? Why are you so well behaved and quiet?" Finally, after much urging, little Sally spoke up and said, "Well, one time you said that if you ever came back and found us quiet, you would drop dead."

The Competition

Sister Mary burst into the office of the principal of Our Lady of Perpetual Motion parochial school in an advanced state of agitation. "Father!" she cried, "just WAIT until you hear this!" The priest led the sister to a chair, and said, "Now just calm down and tell me what has you so excited?" "Well, Father" the nun began, "I was just walking down the hall to the chapel and I heard some of the older boys wagering money!" "A serious infraction, indeed!" said the priest. "But that's not what has me so excited, father!" replied the nun, "it was WHAT they were wagering ON! They had wagered on a contest to see who could urinate the highest on the wall!" "What an incredible wager!" exclaimed the priest, "What did you do?" "Well, I hit the CEILING, father." "And how much did you win?"

Good Dog...

There once was a dog show to determine the world's smartest dog. Three dogs were in the finals. One dog belonged to a doctor. One dog belonged to an engineer. And, one dog belonged to a lawyer. For the finals each dog was given a bag of bones to see what it could make. The doctor said, "Stethoscope, go!" The dog built a human skeleton. The judges were ready to award the trophy right then. But, they decided to give the other dogs a try. The engineer said, "Slide-rule, go!" The dog built a

suspension bridge. The judges were beside themselves. Which dog would they pick? The lawyer said, "Loop-hole, go!" The dog ate the bones, got a percentage of all the tolls from the bridge and screwed the other two dogs.

The Ticket

"How long have you been driving without a tail light, buddy?" demanded the policeman. The driver jumped out, ran to the rear of his car, and gave a low moan. His distress was so great that the cop was moved to ease up on him a bit. "Aw, come now," he said, "You don't have to take it so hard. It isn't that serious." "It isn't?" cried the motorist. "What happened to my boat and trailer?"

Wrong Bus!

A drunken man gets on the bus late one night, staggers up the aisle, and sits next to an elderly woman. She looks the man up and down and says, "I've got news for you - You're going straight to hell!" The man jumps up out of his seat and shouts, "Good heavens, I'm on the wrong bus!"

Restrooms?

Over the years, my husband and I have usually managed to decode the cute but confusing gender signs sometimes put on restaurants' restroom doors (Buoys and Gulls, Laddies and Lassies, etc.), but every so often we get stumped. Recently my husband Dave wandered off in search of the men's room and found himself confronted by two marked doors. One was labelled "Bronco," and the other was designated "Cactus." Completely baffled, he stopped a restaurant employee passing by. "Excuse me; I need to use the restroom," Dave said. Gesturing toward the doors, he asked, "Which one should I use?" "Actually,

we would prefer you to go there," the employee said, pointing to a door down the hall marked "Men." "Bronco and Cactus are private dining rooms."

Testing

Two young engineers applied for a single position at a computer company. They both had the same qualifications. In order to determine which individual to hire, the applicants were asked to take a test by the Department manager. Upon completion of the test, both men missed only one of the questions. The manager went to the first applicant and said, "Thank you for your interest, but we've decided to give the job to the other applicant." "But why? We both got 9 questions correct," asked the

rejected applicant. "We have based our decision not on the correct answers, but on the question you missed," said the manager. "Your fellow applicant put down for question #5, 'I don't know the answer.' And you put down, 'Neither do I.'"

The Stock Report

Helium was up. Feathers were down. Paper was stationary. Knives were up sharply. Pencils lost a few points. Hiking equipment was trailing. Elevators rose, while escalators continued a slow decline. Light switches were off. Mining equipment hit rock bottom. Diapers remained unchanged. Shipping lines stayed at an even keel. Balloon prices were inflated. And batteries

exploded in an attempt to recharge the market

Food

A man walks into a doctor's office. He has a cucumber up his nose, a carrot in his left ear and a banana in his right ear. "What's the matter with me?" he asks the doctor. The doctor replies, "You're not eating properly."

Girl's night out

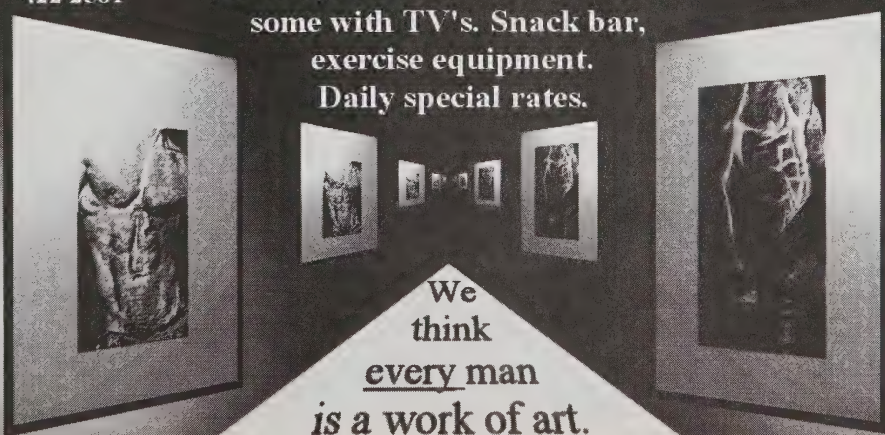
The other night I was invited out for a night with "the girls." I told my husband that I would be home by midnight, "I promise!" Well, the hours passed and the champagne was going down way too easy. Around 3 a.m., drunk as a skunk, I headed for

home. Just as I got in the door, the cuckoo clock in the hall started up and cuckooed 3 times. Quickly, realizing he'd probably wake up, I cuckooed another 9 times. I was really proud of myself for coming up with such a quick-witted solution (even when smashed), in order to escape a possible conflict with him. The next morning my husband asked me what time I got in, and I told him 12:00. He didn't seem disturbed at all. Whew! Got away with that one! Then he said, "We need a new cuckoo clock." When I asked him why, he said, "Well, last night our clock cuckooed three times, then said, 'oh shit,' cuckooed 4 more times, cleared its throat, cuckooed another 3 times, giggled, cuckooed twice more, and then tripped over the cat and farted."

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Get Control!

Robert Wm. Smith
HIVEDMONTON

The following story was sent anonymously to me at HIV Edmonton as a result of my work on the gay Edmonton cruise board. The story tells of a married man torturing himself with memories of encounters with other men that may have put him at risk of HIV and STDs. He is in the waiting room of an STD Clinic. I am sharing it because there are many levels to the anxiety he is going through and most assuredly, these experiences are relatively common with married or straight men who have sex with men (MSM). Read on!

"This chair is cold. This chair feels soiled. Yet, the environment is so sterile. No amount of magazines or television channels can make this setting less barren. I'm alone. I see ten other people waiting; ten solitary people and me, all alone. I'll bet I'm the most nervous though. Anxiety pulses through my limbs. This is the sweating period. Get control! For once get control! It was lack of control that put me here. So I return there...

It's been a few months since I last did this. The bar's quiet and I'm relieved. There's no one here that will persuade me to cheat on

her again. I just need to relax and absorb that feeling of not being strange; to be in a room where everyone likes to suck cock. I go to a gay bar to not feel queer. Man, am I fucked up. I hold my beer tightly; don't know what to do with my hands. I'm drinking faster than I should be. If I drink enough, who knows ... I tell myself to not even think that way. Best to be safe and leave after this last one. A new face walks in. It's attached to an interesting body. He's talking to some other cock suckers. He notices me looking. A smile, and a reciprocation. I'm into it now. My nerves are alive and they reach for my beer. I order another one. Fantasies are rapid. They're exciting; they're amphetamines. He takes another look my way and nods his head. I smile and nod back. As he's walking toward me, the self-produced chemicals start to

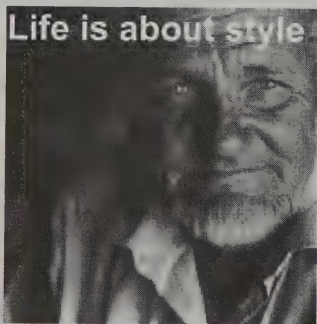
really kick in. The rush enralls me. I'm not the man that entered this bar. I feel in control. We talk and drink together. I like him. In another universe, it could have been real. I end up at his place. We don't waste time. We're racing to get each other. The touch of a man works through my veins like an opiate. I've been released from the grip of my nerves and I'm sure that he felt it, because the sex was incredible. The sex was raw as it was meant to be. There was nothing between us. Why did I take comfort in not using a condom? Where was my control? He lets me take a shower so that she won't smell him, smell us. In the shower, guilt sets in. While getting dressed, I feel angry at him. I'm not sure exactly what I said, but I know it wasn't nice. Being a prick and an asshole, that's what it's all about isn't it? What a fucked-up thought. What a

fucked-up person I've become. That wasn't me that was mean to him. That wasn't me that found so much pleasure in losing so much control. And yet it's me who's forced to keep control and not run from this antiseptic room.

I need the two of me to connect.

Memories of my first encounter are like the staccato clatter of a busy signal. Sitting by the phone, I can only hesitate. I call, then hang up. The fridge offers another beer and I accept. I phone, enter the free pass code, and listen. I'm there now. I'm connected. I replay the voices, listen for subtleties, push a number and concentrate on my breathing. A deep breath. The phone connects with a live voice. We banter and joust our words. My mouth is dry. Words are fumbled. Is my identity on the line? I lie about anything that could connect me to the man my wife knows. Games played and realities lost. My identity

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Bill Campbell & Melanie Bachand
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has been cut-off; I'm not the man that made this call. A surreal existence puts me in tune with a person I have yet to meet. I knock on the door. Shuffling my feet, I do a half-turn and stop at the sound of a latch. I'm relieved that I'm forced to not chicken-out. The door opens and I immediately think that I have the wrong house. He's nothing like he said he was. He's not the man that was just on the phone. He offers me to come in and I accept. I cross a threshold and disconnect. I'm almost shaking as I sit, but he reassures and I relax. He's almost physically repulsive to me, but he's here. Disappointed, I go through the motions of sex and I'm embarrassed. I don't like thinking about it, and yet when I'm feeling myself, I replay the scene repeatedly. Oh the image; if only they could be real.

I reach out for the image before me and find a magazine. I find a cold comfort in the frozen smile of the model on the cover. I see a person whose posture portrays self-control. I'm envious. A man across the room almost knowingly smiles at me. Just a friendly gesture, as if to say you'll be okay. I find the acknowledgement relaxing. Am I really so different than others? Am I really alone? Maybe with acceptance I'll find control." Anonymous to HIV Edmonton

Can you relate? I'd bet more than a few of you are familiar with this story. The numbers of MSM out there, cruising the chat rooms, telephone connections, Cruise board, parks, cans and sometimes

the bar are much higher than is commonly thought. MSM activities seem to be the best kept secrets among men. It is also wrought with dangers that can be prevented.

MSM activities are often accompanied with feelings of self-loathing and condemnation, guilt and depression. No matter how many times one says to themselves that this is the last time, it isn't.



For the past month on the gayedmonton.com Cruiseboard, I have had a posting about getting MSM together for a small focus group. The object of the group would be to give these men a rare sex-positive opportunity to talk to others about their lives as MSM and some of the difficulties that may have resulted from their

sexual activities. It will also be an opportunity to determine ways in which Sexual Health workers can help guys get some control over their feelings of shame, guilt and other anxieties. Of course, the ultimate goal would be to have MSM able to negotiate their sexual safety and prevent transmission of STDs and HIV to themselves, their MSM partners and their female partners.

If you are an MSM and think you might be interested in taking part in a focus group, please contact Robert at men@hivedmonton.com or call 488-5742, ext 230. The group will be facilitated by two experienced facilitators, capped at 10 participants, totally confidential (limited to those participating), a non-judgmental environment and held in a non-identifying location.

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."

(Henry David Thoreau)

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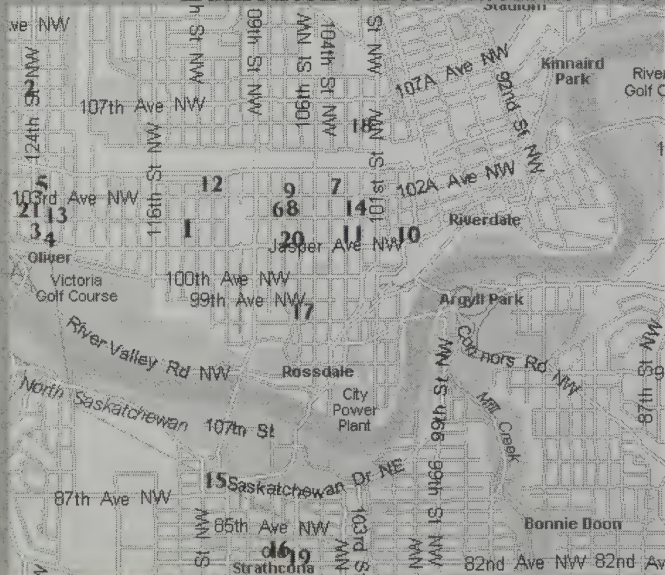
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New Directions for GLCCE

By Tamsin Bohnet

This is an exciting time of year for The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (GLCCE). With our new team on board, it's time to establish our goals and priorities for the coming year.

New Board of Directors

Thanks to everyone who came out to participate in our Annual General Meeting. Special thanks to the nominating committee for their work in enlisting candidates, and to all those who ran for election.

GLCCE would like to introduce our new board of directors:

Roz O.
Co chair-female
Steve R.
Co chair-male

Lenore L.
Communications
Bernard D.
Facilities
Kristine W.
Library
Debra H.
Membership
Roz O.
Peer Counselling
Reagan H.
Policies/Human Resources
Betty K.
Secretary
Bernard D.
Staff Supervisor
Scott J.
Treasurer
Derek T.
Volunteer/Host
Coordinator Liaison

The board will be working hard over the next year to reach out to Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community through resources, programming, special events, and community partnerships.

Emphasis on Programming

GLCCE provides a positive meeting space for a variety of GLBT and ally groups such as

Some Results from our Pride Week 2002 Survey

Top 10 Programming Interests

Social Opportunities	Employment
You and the law	Safer sex for men
Spirituality	Aging and retirement
Partnership rights	Coming out
Women's Health	Medical system

GLCCE Services You Accessed Most Often

Event Information
Internet Access
Drop-in
Library
Support Groups
Health Information

Youth understanding Youth, Men Talking Together, Women's Drop-in, Transgender Support, Bisexual Pride and PFLAG. We also develop and host our own programs—from Women's and Men's Coming Out Groups to Peer Counsellor Training. Expanding our programming to meet the needs of Edmonton's growing GLBT community will be a top priority in 2003.

Focus on Peer Counselling

An important part of GLCCE's programming is our peer counselling service. In order to become peer counsellors, GLCCE volunteers attend twelve weeks of training and evaluation in active listening and support skills. Our service, available free of charge to anyone, is geared primarily toward people affected by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues. Our peer counsellors provide confidential support in person, over the phone, or via e-mail most often around sexuality-related issues such as health, self-esteem, relationships, or coming out.

This year, GLCCE will be seeking out more professional input as part of an effort to expand our peer-counselling program.

More Community Input

One of our goals in 2002 was to gather a better picture of Edmonton's GLBT community: what your interests are, whether you use GLCCE's services, and what you'd like to see from us in the future. To get a clearer picture, we conducted a survey at various events during Pride Week 2002 asking people what type of programming they were interested in and how they preferred to access services. The information we gathered is helping us to define our resource and programming priorities for 2003 and beyond. Thanks to everyone who participated in the survey, and to the GLCCE volunteers who made it happen. Thanks also to Orlando Books and Earth's General Store for providing incentive in the form of pride stickers!

We're also hoping this year for more input into GLCCE's committees from community members and groups. The more our community gets involved, the more successful we'll be in providing needed services. If you are able to help, we'd love to hear from you! Let's make this a great year for GLCCE and for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community!

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KOBI ISRAEL VIEWS

I am an Israeli photographer based in London. A major part of this portfolio is in my first photography book titled "KOBI ISRAEL VIEWS" which has just been published by Bruno Gmunder publications, Germany, and is being distributed worldwide.

This portfolio and the photography book is a journey into my inner world of memories, conflicts and trapped emotions. In my compositions presented there I try to recreate and reinvent fragments in my own life and psyche as a young Israeli, growing up in a "macho" society where feelings towards other men are often "brotherly", physical and warm but seldom cross the dangerous line

between a brotherly hug and a hug of love and desire.

Following the army experience and "discovering myself", the fear and confusion still continued: fear from the first encounter with a man (answering an ad in the paper); fear of a passionate long night coming to an end; the conflict of having a relationship and living as a couple; the "emptiness" of waking up together after a night of extreme passion; the fantasy of casual encounters on the beach; the search for the hidden truth; the fragility behind the strength; the timeliness of beauty; the sadness of beauty; the endless fear behind the beauty, these are all internal conflicts that I tried to re-create in a series of photos on the project "Fragments of Life".

In some cases I even went back to the original location of my own experience and shot the photo there.

All my work can be viewed on my website:

www.kobi-israel.com



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Edmonton Gets Hed

Gay audiences and straight audiences alike have been captivated by the sexy, racy, and controversial new play, which will soon be showing at the Roxy Theatre. It has been praised by publications such as Rolling Stone Magazine and The New York Times, and has been hailed as a cult phenomenon. Even David Bowie has called it "The most wholly-rounded piece of rock theatre we've seen in years."

Hedwig And The Angry Inch tells the story of Hedwig Schmidt, the unfortunate victim of a gruesomely botched sex-change operation, and an "internationally ignored song-stylist". Her journey to find true love, "her other half", is a rock and roll odyssey which leads

her across the Berlin Wall, across the world, and from man to woman.

Hedwig begins her journey as Hansel, a young boy growing up in Germany under a Stalin-esque regime, and the equally strict regime of his mother. He finds what he believes to be an escape from his dreary existence in the form of a handsome "sugar daddy" — an American G.I. named Luther, who promises to take him away from Germany. The caveat, however, is that Luther can only take a *bride* back to America. Desperate to escape his situation, Hansel willingly agrees to a sex-change operation — an operation which is botched, leaving Hedwig with a one-inch reminder of her past.



Abandoned by her husband, living a down-and-out existence in America, Hedwig's journey to find her other half seems to have ground to a halt. Having fallen in love again, this time with Tommy Gnosis, who leaves her when he

becomes a Rock and Roll Superstar, Hedwig takes stock of her situation and forms her own band: The Angry Inch.

Hedwig

endeavors as much as she shocks, and entertains as much as she captivates. Chock-full of hilarious double entendres ("When I think of all the people I have come upon in my travels, I have to think of all the people who have come upon me"), and incredible music (stretching the gamut from touching, to catchy, to all-out-rockin'), it's a show with incredible charm and appeal.

back to icons such as David Bowie, Iggy Pop, and Billy Idol. These were performers who had been 'hard-rockers', but were in touch with a feminine quality and glamorous performance style.

It was in this climate that Hedwig was born, at a drag night at the Squeezebox in 1994. Her first performance consisted of only one song ('The Origin of Love') and one twelve-minute monologue.

She immediately captured the attention of the audience who witnessed this first appearance, because she took drag to a new and unusual place. Drag had always been about the *persona*, but Hedwig made it about the *person*. Hedwig was a character, a drag queen with a history and a story, who had her own aspirations and ideas, fears and hopes.

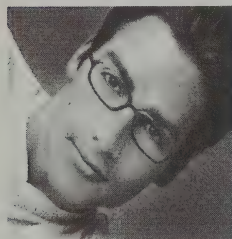
From this unlikely start, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* has become a global craze, inspiring an award-winning movie as well as productions all across the world. Since its premiere on Valentines' Day, 1998, at New York's Jane Street Theatre, productions have been staged across America, England, Scotland, Iceland and Germany.

Theatre Network's production marks the 3rd in Canada, and will star Michael Scholar Jr. as Hedwig. The production will be directed by Theatre Network's Artistic Director, Bradley Moss. Edmonton is fortunate to have a chance to see her on her glamorous world tour; hers is a tour across the globe, and a pilgrimage of the soul. It is a rock and roll odyssey. And a journey to find true love.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch will run from April 1-20 at Theatre Network's Roxy Theatre (10708 124th Street). For tickets or more information, call 453 2440, or visit www.hedwiginedmonton.com.

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Hedwig's first appearance happened at The Squeezebox nightclub in New York City. Her debut occurred in the midst of an unusual drag phenomenon that was developing in New York at the time: Punk Rock Drag. In a drag-world that consisted of lip-synching, glamorous female icons, and torch songs, this underground drag movement began to discover a new form of expression by actually *singing* the songs, and creating drag queens who were rockers, who were punky, and who were edgier than their predecessors.

It was a movement that began to identify a link that had long existed between rock music and gay culture, a link that had never been truly embraced. It was the acknowledgement of a sort of 'queersensibility' that had always been part of rock and roll, dating

Gays and Lesbians Skeptical of U.S. Policies and War Against Iraq

New Harris Poll shows only one-third of gay and lesbians express confidence in President Bush and his administration to make the right decisions regarding the use, or non-use, of U.S. military to attack

When asked in a recent survey how much

confidence they have in President Bush and his administration to 'make the right decisions' regarding the use or non-use of the U.S. military to attack Iraq, six out of ten (60%) of heterosexual adults nationwide stated they are somewhat or very confident. In sharp contrast only 31% of self-identified gays and lesbians said they felt the same.

"American leadership at home and abroad requires public trust, especially at tough times like these," said Bob Witeck, CEO of W i t e c k - C o m b s Communications, Inc. "These findings make clear, however, that this often-marginalized group of citizens, gay and lesbian Americans, expresses

deeper feelings of alienation with the administration's decision-making and the prospects of a war in Iraq. Also, given that gays and lesbians would serve the nation bravely, yet are not allowed to serve openly in the armed forces, their scepticism may run even deeper."

Regarding Saddam Hussein and Iraq's alleged ties to Al Qaeda terrorists, however, there appears to be a closer resemblance between the opinions of gay and non-gay adult Americans. Forty-five percent (45%) of gay and lesbian respondents believe there is some link, and forty-nine percent (49%) of heterosexual adults agree.

Note: By request, the data tables and a PowerPoint

presentation with the data presented graphically are both available by responding to
t 0
bwiteck@witeckcombs.com

To become a member of the Harris Poll OnlineSM and be invited to participate in future online surveys, visit www.harrispollonline.com.

Press Contacts:
Nancy Wong
Harris Interactive
585-214-7316
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A Woman's View

By Marla Taylor

March 1st was the deadline for women interested in competing in Ms. Edmonton Leather 2003. On March 2nd the decision was made to cancel the event because unfortunately no one submitted an application to run. Some of you stated that's ok we'll have a party and a step-down for you. My reply is a simple no; there can be no step-down if there's no step-up and besides Ms. Edmonton Leather was never about partying and titles. It is an idea. The idea was always and remains so; that a vehicle be created to allow women to find and possibly express their Leather/bdsm desires. I feel that I have at least started to make this idea grow and will continue to

help expand it because I feel it is important. I will not wear the sash again but instead put it in safe storage until there are enough women interested to have another contest. Hopefully that will be in April of 2004. The website

www.edmontonleather.com is going to remain and periodically updated. With l u c k contributions from you will also appear. Please don't hesitate to send me some related article or story you may have for posting. I am going to continue to be around promoting the lifestyle I enjoy and the gay community on a whole.

I will now be giving all of my attention to The Edmonton Pride Week Society or the EPWS of which I was elected Volunteer Coordinator. Let's talk about that, as Pride Week is now just over two months away. Almost daily

new information is inserted in the website. The website will allow you to communicate with this years executive and give you all the information you require to fully take part in all of the weeks activities. This is way to express

your wishes if you are unable to attend the monthly meetings held on the last Thursday of each month. Your feedback and ideas are needed and appreciated; after all, Pride Week is for you. The website address is www.prideedmonton.org. For those of you that are not aware it starts on June 13th this year.

That's a Friday and I can think of no better place to be than the Mr. Edmonton Leather Meet-n-Greet. That's the only scheduled event at the time of this writing but I know that will be numerous events happening that night to kick off what promises to be a fantastic Pride Week. The following night a new Mr. Edmonton Leather will be chosen and for those not interested in that, a Womonspace Dance

promises to be a blast. On Sunday June 15th starting at 2:00pm the Pride Parade takes place followed by a post parade party and business fair, complete with a beer garden and entertainment at Oliver Park, the same place as last year. The following week there will be tons of entertainment at various places throughout the city. A Pride Dance that will truly surprise everyone is on Saturday the 21st. Believe me this dance really is going to be something. Make sure you get your tickets when they come on sale. I know it's been a very long year, there's a boatload of crap going on, everyone's bitchy and the winter seemed to have lasted forever. This year the theme is the Flame Within and I ask you all to forget the petty differences we all express at times and let the flame within yourself burn brightly. Remember that Pride Week is all about celebrating who we are. Take care and have fun.

Sincerely,
Marla Taylor
(Ms. Edmonton Leather 2002)

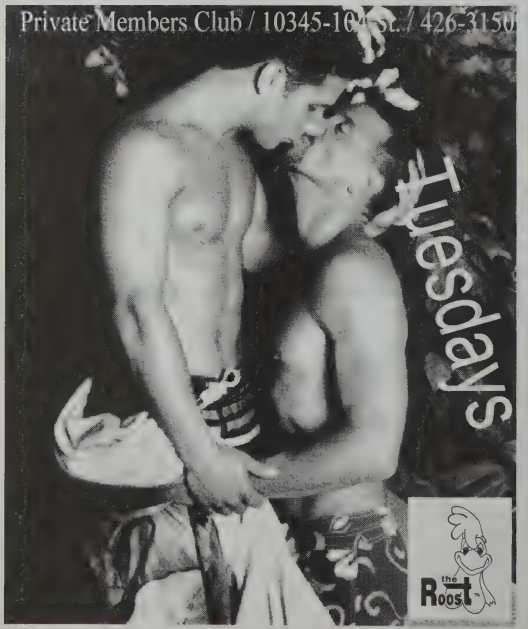


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By James O'Reilly
Directed by Jim Millan

A fusion of sexy jazz and hot theatre, *Time After Time: The Chet Baker Project* plays out the pivotal points in the life of Chet Baker, a tragically cool jazz trumpeter and singer. Toronto's Crow's Theatre brings *Time After Time: The Chet Baker Project* to the Citadel's intimate Rice Theatre, April 8 to May 4, 2003. The Citadel is thrilled to present *Time*

After Time: The Chet Baker Project, a play about Chet Baker's music in all its aching delicacy and sheer sensuality as part of our 2002-2003 season. From the moment he wandered onto the California jazz scene in the early 1950's to the day he fell from a hotel balcony some thirty years later, Chet Baker has seduced and fascinated legions of fans.

Looking through the eyes of a writer struggling to understand his love/hate relationship with the jazz

idol, accompanied by an onstage jazz band, *Time After Time: The Chet Baker Project* begins with Baker at the peak of his career. In his



early twenties, Baker was matinee idol handsome and causing a stir with his superb trumpet playing, jazz improvisations and lush sexy vocals. As Baker soared to fame, off-stage he plunged further into

his heroin habit. How could such a conflicted man play such rapturous music?

Playwright James O'Reilly has been published in numerous books and magazines, produced on film

and in various theatres across the country. Best known for his dramatic monologues *Work Blood Everywhere*, and *Act of God*, O'Reilly rose to wide acclaim when he wrote, produced and performed in *Ghetto* at Theatre Passe Muraille.

Performance Options

Performances run Tuesday – Sunday at 8 pm; 2 pm matinees Sunday.

Opening Night: Thursday, April 10, 8 pm

RBC Foundation

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romance

Box 22125: I'm a caring, professional, passionate and compassionate guy. I like to laugh, love and learn new things. I had a full, creative life and try and keep a balance with my career and relaxation such as music, theatre, skiing and projects at my lake cottage. I've been a single father for the past seven years and I'm looking for another important relationship in my life. I'm tall, 6', 145lb, fit and attractive. I prefer being a bottom but I'm versatile, passionate and adventurous. I'm looking for someone between 35-50 who finds these qualities would fit their lifestyle and personality.

Box 31047: I'm just getting on this system here looking to meet somebody for something longterm and discreet. I am attached and not looking to get out of it. I'm looking to meet somebody that I can spend some quality time with, to get to know. I'm pretty down-to-earth and quite honest so if you're firm, young, smooth, slim, definitely get back to me.

Box 31089: 42 year old here. 150lb, 5'11", slim, curly toned. Looking for somebody that likes to have fun, a social drinker and smoker. takes life pretty casually around 25-35. I must be slim and attractive, kind of more a tradesman kind of femboy guy.

Box 31123: I think it is high time for a longterm relationship for me. I am good-looking, active. I am sincere and have a great and sometimes bizarre, sense of humour. I would like to meet a guy 35-45, who must be intellectually stimulating, have a good sense of humour and most importantly, be honest and sincere. I keep active, I don't work out everyday. I am not looking for someone with a perfect body, just an average guy.

bears & big men

Box 31045: I'm in my mid-40s, hot and heavy, 150lb, while looking for a good time. Like somebody big and heavy and strong on top of me. I like to bottom, suck nipples too.

Box 32932: I'm Ron, 6', brown hair and eyes. I am 49, 6', 265lb, love sucking cock, licking ass, pleasing a guy!

friendship & hanging out

Box 31309: Dark hair and eyes, fairly handsome, 5'8", 51, seek men 26-38. I am straightforward straight-acting, professionally employed and not into head games. I am looking for decent guys to become friends with and see where the road leads. My interests of mine include camping, hiking, running, traveling, sitting back on cold rocks and watching a good movie, enjoy hanging out with my friends and family.

Box 31336: This is a gay white male in Fort McMurray. Good morning, afternoon and evening - however you are looking at your day! Looking up to hook up with some friends and, maybe, who knows? We can see how it goes. Are you in town and as bored as I am?

Box 31721: This is Kevin. Anyone work out? I need a workout partner. I am 29, 5'8", 235lb, brown hair and eyes. I have a little bit of weight to lose a little bit overweight. This is why I am looking for a workout partner. I am mostly looking for a relationship to hang out with, do the bike and the treadmill and the "Step-Step-Step". Eventually, we will get into the free weights. I have a rotating shift at work and that puts me at all different hours but I am willing to work out at a specific time that we can have it.

one night stands

Box 31269: I'm a tall guy with a slender build, 29" waist, flat stomach, tight smooth ass, not talented much, 77" cut cock. I'm generally a bottom looking for a top that might be looking for a relationship or ongoing encounters. Who's out there?

Box 22876: I'm a bisexual guy coming into the Edmonton area tomorrow, going to be in town till Friday morning. Looking for

another in-shape, masculine guy who wants to get together and have some safe clean fun. I'm 28, 6', 195lb, nice little body, nice thick shaved 7" cut dick.

Box 31040: Married guy on the line here. 151lb, 185lb, short brown hair, blue-green eyes. Just looking to have a little fun and see what's out there.

Box 31067: I'm a bottom looking for a top, can travel. Very clean, discreet, straight looking and acting, good-looking. Short black hair 170lb, very slim, nice bubble butt, 7" cut cock, fairly fit. I like to suck cock and I want to be fucked in the ass. I'm serious if you are.

Box 31078: 33 year old guy 6', 195lb, 7" cut, dark blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking to get together with another guy for a regular fuckubuddy. Love to suck, jack, fondle, roll around, totally versatile, sometimes like to top or bottom.

Box 31100: Looking for safe, discreet times. I'm in my 20s, sporty, open-minded, get back.

Box 31132: I'm 6', 190lb, looking to hook up with a hot young guy who wants to have a hot time. Who is out there?

Box 31164: I am clean, discreet, mid-40s, bi, I am very straight looking and acting in the closet. Looking for a guy who is attached or single. I am very discreet, would like to get together on a regular basis. Looking for a well-endowed who is straight-looking and acting like a man. Would like someone to be a top for me. I love sucking cock and getting fucked. Just looking for a good time. Anyone interested?

Box 31166: I am a young guy who is looking to get together right away. I am open-minded. Why don't we chat?

Box 31300: 30 yr, 165lb, 5'11", fit and muscular, incredibly horny, Well-Hung, love sucking like hairy, muscular guys. Anyone who has an ass that they like to have it worked over?

group scenes & public sex

Box 31016: Young 18 year old guy here. 6' brown hair, blonde highlights, blue eyes. 175lb. Looking for other young hot guys out there who want to hook up.

Box 31025: I'm 37, blue eyes, shoulder-length hair, 180lb, nice big cock. I like to suck, fuck, eat ass, have my ass eaten, be fucked hard. Just love lots of fun, blow lots of load, spend lots of time together, necking, passionate get in the shower, just fuck hard. I'm looking for a well-endowed guy, maybe two guys. I can travel or you can come to my house.

submissive bottoms

Box 31065: 24 year old bisexual, promiscuous, kinky, dirty bottom boy, like to play dirty, anything goes. I'm looking for a group of top guys to come over and gangbang me. Love to suck cock, ass play, rim, get fucked really love cum in my mouth. I want a group of older tops to gangbang me, maybe it'd be okay you could videotape me.

total tops

Box 31137: I am 39, 5'9", 160lb, cock, 6" cut and bottom. Looking for some hot action. I'm in Fort McMurray but willing to travel to Edmonton.

Box 31419: Anyone out there who is too hot and horny? Hot and horny, 5'8", blond and blue eyes, moustache, toned and tanned. Tight, muscular legs, 33" waist, 170lb. Very well-endowed, clean, discreet, professional. Looking for another guy 18-35.

first-times & bi guys

Box 31140: I am bi 5'7", 175lb, brown hair and blue eyes. Looking for the same. Crossdressers are preferred.

Box 31277: I am 28, 5'10", average build, thin and attractive, brown hair, blue eyes, attached, so discretion is a big thing. I am not into the huggy/kissy sort of thing, don't enjoy body-to-body contact. I do really enjoy meaning and giving anal - meaning more than giving and also, who is in discreet shape that can travel or entertain. Looking for a possibly ongoing relationship.

Box 31293: This middle-aged, 55 year old male, 5'10", 220lb, husky and hairy body married and bi is a little experienced. I have done "it" and know what I like. Looking for another male who can give pleasure to / enjoy giving pleasure to men and doing things to meet their wives or girlfriends don't really do. I can travel to Red Deer on a regular basis. Edmonton, too. Discretion and safe sex are a must.

Box 31384: Just looking for anyone to jerk off with. Let's get together.

Box 31330: I'm 23, looking to try it with a guy for the first time. This will be a first-time experience. I am looking to try anal and try possibly being a bottom. I haven't tried it, but I do have a vibrator and I really enjoy that. So I assume that I would enjoy being a bottom. I am looking for someone 20 or younger, or 50 and older. Looking for someone who can entertain. I come into Edmonton once, twice a week. If that. Looking for someone who can help me out. I have blond hair, blue eyes, clean, safe and discreet, good-looking. Looking for the same. Hope to hear from you!

leather & SM

Box 32226: This bi male is 6' and almost hairless. A bottom. I am submissive. Love to satisfy and please who I am with. I love to do oral. Don't mind a little body contact once in a while. Very open-minded, I will try different things.

leather & SM

Box 31030: Very submissive bottom from west Edmonton, 195lb, brown hair and eyes, fairly new at this game. I'm looking for a very dominant top with some toys to use as they see fit. There is more than one, that might be okay too with the right circumstances. Thanks.

Box 31042: I'm Bert, very submissive, in my 40s looking for men or women or couples to get along. I'm bisexual. I've been trained that way, so.

I like to dress up or pretty much anything that you'd like and give me a buzz. Thank you.

Box 31347: Looking for anyone out there who wants to get together. I am 6'3", 37, with a husky, bigger build. A large frame guy. Looking to just service a master and see how that goes.

fetishes, kink & raunch

Box 31135: I am basically an adult baby. A diaper boy! I am looking for a daddy who can diaper me. Who would baby me? Do you like when you are hearing? Get back to me!

Box 31686: I am a bi-curious, white male in my 30s. I am very clean and open-minded. Love watching BD and SM tapes. Don't anyone have those kind of tapes? They're hard to find! Also, do you have any party favours, like poppers? Those things keep a guy in the mood. I would like to try some. If I am bi-curious, then I am also very open-minded.

shemales & crossdressers

Box 31050: I'm Samantha, an extremely hot and very horny transsexual. I'm 6', long blonde hair, big hazel eyes, full lips, nice smile, great body, super-long legs. I'm toned and tanned. I'm a 32B for my Bx, 28", 32" hips. Very sexy, conservative and hoping to meet and greet new people out there who would like to meet a new friend and possibly more so get back to me.

Box 31168: I'm 5'10", 180lb, brown hair and eyes and looking for a submissive. I have the time, the place and the toys I play safe, sane and consensual.

Box 31215: It's Rec here. I am looking for a real cute, girly boy. Any TVs, transgenders, that kind of thing - get back to me! I am very cute, handsome and professionally employed!



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